

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

JANUARY 14, 2026

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Mayor Samantha Kaag (via Zoom); Chief of Police Richard Tornielli; Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; Borough Manager Randall Miller (via Zoom); and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors:

James Rogers, Resident

Karen Livingood, Resident

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lincoln at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Mrs. Livingood expressed her appreciation for Mr. Lincoln's continued chairmanship of this committee.

Mr. Lincoln shared written communication from a resident who could not attend tonight's meeting, requesting that the committee revisit the prohibition on parking in Boot Alley. Recapping prior committee discussions on the difficulty experienced by plow vehicles and trash trucks was noted. The resident on Ann Street spoke of the ability to remove a portion of her hedge to park on her property. Mr. Rogers spoke of a time when he witnessed a commercial truck unable to pass the vehicle parked in the alley, so it backed up to take an alternate route. No additional action was taken on the prior recommendation to restrict parking in Boot Alley.

Mr. Rogers recommended creating two parking spaces on the east side of Obold Street, between Franklin Street and Grape Alley. He witnessed six vehicles parked there one evening. It was noted that restriping of parking stalls on Obold Street had not been completed last summer.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of December 10, 2025. **Moved** by Chief Tornielli and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried 6-0.**

New Business

Bicycle Use on Sidewalk Signage – Mr. Lincoln shared a request from a former Council Member to install signage in the business district alerting the public to restrictions on bicycle or skateboard use on the sidewalk. It was noted that the new Micromobility Ordinance, which is up for adoption next week, includes, under Section 264.3 A. Operation, verbiage: "...Motorized Micromobility Vehicles shall not be operated on sidewalks in the Borough of West Reading. This provision shall, however, not apply to a child under 12 years of age operating a Pedal Cycle in a purely residential part of the Borough under the control or guidance of their parents or a responsible person." It was noted that this pertains to motorized vehicles; however, the motor vehicle code could be used to cite bicycle violations. Chief Tornielli encourages officers to cite under the PA Vehicle Code, and installing signage would help with that enforcement. Mr. Lincoln noted that skateboards were not defined in the Micromobility Ordinance. It was decided to create and post signage in the 300 through 700 blocks of Penn Avenue to alert the public to the prohibition on bicycle or scooter use on sidewalks in the business district.

Vacant Premises Water Service – Section 441-13 of the Water Chapter allows vacant premises to temporarily discontinue water service, with a minimum charge of \$19.80 per quarter to cover meter reading, infrastructure maintenance, and billing expenses. It was unclear when or how that amount was established, and it was recommended that the fee be removed from the ordinance and that a quarterly and monthly fee be listed in the fee schedule. An administrative maintenance fee will be reviewed with neighboring municipalities, and an ordinance amendment drafted for Borough Council's consideration. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Old Business

Traffic Calming – 700 Block Cherry Street – Chief Tornielli indicated that the traffic-monitoring device has not yet been installed. Further discussions were tabled at this time.

433 Penn Avenue Paid Parking Update – Mr. Miller reported that the ParkMobile signs have not yet been received. A three to four-week estimated delivery time was provided, possibly due in part to their recent merger.

Privately Owned Parking Lot Paid Use Agreement Update

- **Gage Personnel Parking Lot** – A quote from the engineer was received this afternoon to establish stairway access from Reading Avenue to the Gage Personnel parking lot. The proposal would not exceed \$2,000 to perform a field survey, prepare a base plan, and design. This improvement would make the parking lot more accessible to the general public. Mr. Miller noted his request of the engineer to review precast options for cost savings.
- **Shopping Center Parking Lot** – Mr. Miller reported that Legacy Cigar Lounge has closed its doors, and following a conversation with the owner of this property, the owner is amenable to offering use of spaces currently zoned as 30-minute free parking for shopping center business clientele to paid parking while shopping center businesses are closed. Mr. Miller recommended adding two new zones: **1A** – the 17 spaces in front of Superior Oxygen from 6:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.; and **1B** – the 28 spaces in front of Scrubs and Beyond from 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

Mr. Lincoln inquired with Chief Tornielli about the confusion this may cause and how much signage would be needed to explain paid parking options to motorists. It was recommended that each zone have its own timeframes. Mr. Grassley recommended striping stall lines with zone colors to avoid confusion. Staff will explore statistical demand for parking after 9:00 p.m. based on receipts and options to implement and educate motorists.

Sidewalk Café Safety Best Practices – Mr. Lincoln shared crash-rated planter bollard specifications as an option to aesthetically shield sidewalk café diners from moving vehicles. These bollards could be placed at the front and rear stall lines to allow access to car doors; however, this would leave a 20-foot wide opening. The initial focus of safety improvements would be on the 500 and 600 blocks of Penn Avenue, where several sidewalk cafes operate. Mr. Lincoln recommended including this discussion in the WalkWorks pedestrian safety audit. Safety options will continue to be reviewed for the limited sidewalk area that supports both dining and pedestrian traffic.

Municipal Trash Collection Service for Business Update – There were no updates available from the solicitor's office. Discussions were tabled at this time.

Potential List of Parking Space Review – Some of this discussion took place during public comment this evening. The image of a school bus making a right onto Pine Street from Fifth Avenue, with an oncoming vehicle, gave pause to creating even a compact-car parking space on the south side of Pine Street.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary